

FINANCIAL GUARANTEE RELEASE

For plans of operations, the BLM in Nevada requires submission of financial guarantees for reclamation of all operations on public land. The financial guarantee must be sufficient to cover 100% of the cost to reclaim the site. The following guidelines provide for phased and final release of financial guarantees for plan of operations level activities:

- Up to 60% of the total financial guarantee for an operational area within a designated project area, or an entire project area, may be released when all dirtwork is completed and the area is prepared to receive seed. Requirements include: backfilling, regrading, establishment of drainage control, stabilization and neutralization of leach heaps, process ponds, leach-bearing tailings, and similar facilities.
- The final 40% of the total financial guarantee may be released when all structures and other facilities have been removed and the area has been revegetated to establish a diverse, effective and permanent vegetative cover, all monitoring and maintenance requirements have been met, and when discharged effluent (surface water) has met, without violations and without the necessity for additional treatment, applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards for at least one full year.

The determination of successful revegetation of mining disturbances is defined in ***NEVADA GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL REVEGETATION FOR THE NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE (FINALIZED 09/03/98)***. In addition, Attachment A, *Documentation of Reclamation Activities for Surety Release*, of the Reclamation Permit issued by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) details documentation required for final release of the financial guarantee (see Attachment 8).

Each plan of operations must include a section addressing site-specific financial guarantee release criteria which includes requirements in Attachment A of the NDEP reclamation permit, revegetation goals, and the technical method to be used to estimate vegetative cover.

Requests for release of a financial guarantee covering operations on public lands is made to the appropriate BLM field office manager. The request is coordinated between the BLM and the NDEP with a decision jointly made between the two agencies.